Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Renovation Project Survey

Summary: Question 2 Written Responses

2. What current features of the park do you think are working well?

1. **Skateboarding/Skate Features:** This category includes responses that specifically mention skateboarding, the history and culture of skateboarding at the site, or features used for skateboarding such as the ledges, stairs, and the brick ground.
    - **Response Count: 45**
2. **Vaillancourt Fountain:** This category encompasses responses that positively mention the fountain as a current feature working well, often referring to it as iconic or a piece of history.
    - **Response Count: 47**
3. **Open Space/General Park Environment:** This category includes responses that appreciate the open space, the overall design or architecture, green spaces, walking areas, and a general positive feeling about the park's layout.
    - **Response Count: 73**
4. **Specific Amenities:** This category includes mentions of the playground, paddleball courts, seating areas (tables, chairs, benches), the arts and crafts market, and the stage area.
    - **Response Count: 52**
5. **Location/Accessibility:** This category includes responses that highlight the park's good location, its proximity to transportation (like BART and the Ferry Building), and the views it offers .
    - **Response Count: 17**

Please note that some responses mentioned multiple aspects, so they have been counted in more than one category. The "Total Responses" in the Q2 document is 1054, and many of these did not answer the question directly or provided non-categorizable feedback. The counts above reflect the number of times a particular theme was explicitly mentioned as a positive aspect of the park.

Detailed Summary

1. Skateboarding/Skate Features: This category focuses on the positive aspects related to skateboarding at the park.

- **General skateboarding activity** is mentioned, including the ability and freedom to skateboard there.
- The park's **historic and cultural significance of skateboarding** is highlighted, with references to decades of skateboarding history and culture. The plaza is seen as a central gathering place for local skateboarders and an open area that welcomes the skate community in San Francisco. Its importance as a mecca of skateboarding since the 1990s and a place that honors the skate community are also noted.
- Specific **skateable elements** are mentioned positively, such as ledges, smooth flatground, stairs, the brick area, and legacy brick features that retain rich history for the skateboarding community. The six-stair stage is also noted as useful. Support is expressed for the infrastructure that allows skateboarders to skate.
- **Skateboarders are recognized as a community**, forming a natural gathering place and bringing culture and a vibrant culture to the space.

2. Vaillancourt Fountain: This category includes negative and positive feedback specifically about the fountain.

- The Negative:
    - Based on the Q2 Written Responses, some respondents expressed negative views about the Vaillancourt Fountain. Some felt that **nothing** in the park is working well, or **very little**. The fountain and the general plaza were described as an **"eyesore"**. One respondent explicitly asked to "**Get rid of the waterfall**", and another to "**Please remove the hideous foundation**" of the fountain. Some considered the fountain "**dated**", and one stated it "**has always been an eyesore!**". The fountain as a focal point was called a "**monstrosity**". The hardscape and fountain were described as "**awful**". One person felt that "**Nothing about the current features is conducive**" to creating a world-class park. While some appreciate its uniqueness, others find the water feature "**quite ugly**". One

respondent felt the plaza, including the fountain, is a "**disaster**" and a "**terrible use of space**". Another mentioned the fountain would be great if it were not "**dirty and poorly maintained**".

- The Positive
    - The **fountain as a working feature** is directly mentioned.
    - Its **iconic status and history** are emphasized, with descriptions such as "iconic," "part of SF history," a "piece of SF history," a "historic feature," and a piece of "iconic public art."
    - Respondents appreciate the **visual and experiential aspects** of the fountain, considering it an amazing visual element and beautiful. Enjoyment is expressed for walking through part of its history, and it evokes civic pride and appreciation for San Francisco in some.

3. Open Space/General Park Environment: This category encompasses appreciation for the park's layout, openness, and greenery.

- The **open space** is frequently mentioned as a positive feature, with descriptions like "lots of open space," a "great open area," "openness," and a "vast open space for recreation." The uncongested nature and feeling of being at the edge of the city are also appreciated.
- Positive comments are made about the **green space and landscaping**, including "green walking spaces," "some amount of green space," "nice large green space in downtown," "well-maintained green space," the "green space of Sue Bierman park," "lots of green open space with lovely colorful flowering landscaping," and the "grassy areas." The care of the landscaping is also noted.
- The **overall design and atmosphere** are seen as working well, with the park being described as working well in its "entirety," being "perfect," having a "plaza vibe," and being a "somewhat quiet relaxing area even though in downtown." The contrast and connections between the urban plaza and green park are also considered positive. The park's uncongested nature and feeling of being a multipurpose and open space compared to dense buildings are valued.

4. Specific Amenities: This category includes positive feedback about particular features within the park.

- The **playground** is frequently mentioned positively as a playground for kids, a playground area for children, and the Sue Bierman Playground, often noted as being popular and excellent.
- Mentions include the **paddleball courts** and **racket courts**.
- Appreciation is expressed for the **arts and crafts market** and **artist vendors**.
- The **stage area for large events** is noted.
- Positive feedback includes **outdoor seating**, general seating, tables and seating along the businesses, and tables, chairs, and benches for people to sit and enjoy the park.

5. Location/Accessibility: This category includes positive comments about the park's location and how easy it is to reach.

- The **location** in general, its central location, and its presence in the heart of the financial district are seen as positive.
- Appreciation is expressed for the **proximity to transportation and other areas**, including the connection to a wide variety of transit and nearness to the Ferry Building and its thriving commerce. Easy access and connection to Embarcadero Center levels are also noted. The park serves as a great meeting space to begin an urban adventure via various transit options.

6. Non-Categorizable Feedback: This category includes responses that did not directly answer the question about what current features are working well.

- Responses stating "Nothing."
- Responses expressing a desire for "Nothing besides giving homeless folks a place to sleep."
- Responses stating "All of them. Don’t change anything," "All of it," "Everything," or "It’s perfect."
- Responses offering opinions on future changes or general statements without commenting on current working features.
- Responses mentioning something without indicating if it's working well or not, such as "The parrots."
- Responses focused on problems or challenges.

- Responses that are unclear or too brief to categorize.
- Responses like "See my first response to survey. This is second, further thoughts."

Based on a review of the excerpts, approximately 28 responses explicitly stated "Nothing," expressed overall satisfaction without specifying features, or provided comments that did not address the question directly. Many individual responses mentioned multiple features, leading to overlaps in the category counts. The "Total Responses" in the Q2 document was 1054, indicating that a significant portion of responses did not directly address this question or were non-categorizable within these themes.

Summary: Question 3 Written Responses

3. What is currently challenging at the site?

1. **Negative Perceptions and Calls for Removal/Modification of the Vaillancourt Fountain:** This is a very strong theme. Many respondents described the fountain as "**ugly**", "**eyesore**", "**monstrosity**", "**hideous**", "**dated**", "**not functioning**", "**dirty**", "**smelly**", and expressing desires for it "**to go**", be "**removed**", "**torn down**", or "**repurposed**". Some also mentioned its poor condition and lack of maintenance. **Approximate Response Count: 350**
2. **Concerns Related to Homelessness, Safety, and Cleanliness:** A significant number of responses mentioned issues with "**homeless**" individuals, "**drug use**", lack of "**cleanliness**", "**trash**", "**feces**", "**needles**", and feeling "**unsafe**" or "**unwelcoming**". **Approximate Response Count: 380**
3. **Desire for Improved Park Features and Amenities:** Many respondents expressed a need for "**more seating**", "**more green space/plants/trees**", "**shade**", "**public bathrooms/restrooms**", "**activation/events**", "**food/drink options**", "**picnic areas**", and a "**bigger playground for kids**". Some also desired "**water features**" (distinct from the current fountain). **Approximate Response Count: 360**
4. **Concerns about Park Design, Accessibility, and Usability:** This category includes complaints about the "**rough pavement and cracks in sidewalks**", "**old ground/bricks**", the "**brutalist style**", the plaza feeling "**bare and uninviting**", "**disjointed**" feel, "**lack of clear purpose**", feeling "**separated from the rest of the area**", "**hardscape**", "**barriers**", poor "**pedestrian flow/circulation**", and the space being "**underutilized**". **Approximate Response Count: 400**
5. **Issues Related to Skateboarding and New Sports Facilities (Pickleball/Padel):** Concerns were raised about "**not enough skateboarding**", the "**loss of skateboarding history**", "**skatestoppers**", not being "**skate friendly**", wanting to "**include and acknowledge skateboarding**", and feeling "**hated as a skater**". There were also numerous negative comments about the "**pickle ball**" and "**padel courts**" being "**in the way**", an "**eyesore**",

"**disfiguring the plaza**", "**haphazardly placed**", "**taking up too much space**", "**a blight**", "**offensive**", "**ugly**", "**tacky**", "**acontextual**", "**not as important as skateboarding**", "**temporary**" looking, and "**restrictively expensive**". **Approximate Response Count: 250**

Detailed Summary

1. Negative Perceptions and Calls for Removal/Modification of the Vaillancourt Fountain:

- **Aesthetic Dislike:** Many respondents described the fountain with strong negative language, calling it an "**eyesore**", "**ugly**", "**monstrosity**", "**hideous**", "**dated**", and "**clunky**". One respondent felt it looked like "**debris from war**".
- **Non-Functionality and Poor Condition:** Many pointed out that the fountain is "**not working**" or "**never running**", leading to it looking "**sad and derelict**". Some noted the "**green goop**" and "**smelly water**" when it does run, and that it's "**dirty**" and in "**poor condition**". The city was accused of allowing it "**to fall into disrepair**".
- **Hindrance to Access and Views:** The fountain was described as a "**barrier**" that "**blocks the view**" of the water and Ferry Building, and "**blocks access to the waterfront**". It was also seen as making it "**hard to get across the plaza easily**" and "**hard to navigate**".
- **Suggestions for Removal or Repurposing:** Numerous respondents explicitly suggested to "**get rid of the fountain**", "**remove the statue**", "**tear it down**", "**scrap it**" , or "**dismantle**". Some suggested repurposing it, such as turning it into an "**interesting planter**" or a "**climbing wall**" .
- **Outdated Relevance:** One respondent felt it "**no longer serves its original purpose**" related to the former freeway and is a "**relic from a different time**".

2. Concerns Related to Homelessness, Safety, and Cleanliness:

- **Presence of Homeless Individuals:** The prevalence of "**homeless**" individuals was a major concern, with mentions of them "**gathering**", "**camping**", "**taking over the bricks**", and forming "**encampments**".

- **Drug Use and Related Issues:** Respondents reported seeing "**drug users**", "**drug addiction**", "**crackheads**", "**tweakers**", "**open drug use**", "**human feces**" and "**needles**". There were also mentions of "**smoke/weed**" and "**pot**" smell.
- **Lack of Cleanliness:** The site was described as "**dirty**", with issues of "**trash**", "**litter**", "**waste management**", and "**overflowing trash bins**".
- **Safety Concerns:** Many respondents "**felt unsafe**" at the site, especially "**at night**". Concerns were also raised about "**crime**" and "**aggressive skateboarders**".
- **Unwelcoming Atmosphere:** The combination of these issues contributed to the plaza feeling "**uninviting**", "**bleak**", "**desolate**", "**grim**", "**lonely**", "**deserted**", and "**cold**".

3. Desire for Improved Park Features and Amenities:

- **Seating and Gathering Spaces:** There was a strong desire for "**more seating**", "**benches**", "**tables**", "**picnic tables**", "**communal spaces**" , and "**areas to rest**". Respondents noted the current lack of "**functional patio furniture**" and that existing seating is often in shady or cold spots.
- **Green Space and Landscaping:** Many wanted "**more greenery**", "**more plants and trees**", "**shade**", and "**native plants**". Some felt there was "**too much lawn**" or "**too much concrete/paving**".
- **Public Facilities:** The need for "**public bathrooms/restrooms**" was frequently mentioned, with complaints about the existing ones being "**rarely open**" or "**closed all the time**". Some also desired a "**water station**" and working "**water fountains**".
- **Activation and Programming:** Many called for "**more activities**", "**events**", "**programming**", "**public activation**", "**further activation**", and a "**central core, like a gathering place**" . Specific ideas included a "**bandshell or stage area**", "**concerts or performances**", "**food/drink options**", "**quick snack options**", "**coffee kiosk**", "**brewery**", "**food trucks**", and "**vendors**".
- **Children's Amenities:** There were calls for a "**bigger play area for children**", "**playground improvements**", "**more for kids**", "**fun**

things to climb on", and "**water features for kids to play with in summer**".

- **Other Amenities:** Suggestions included "**exercise equipment for senior adults**", "**fitness equipment**", an "**enclosed dog park**", and "**more lights for night time**".

4. Concerns about Park Design, Accessibility, and Usability:

- **Poor Surface Conditions:** Numerous respondents complained about the "**rough pavement and cracks in sidewalks**", "**old ground/bricks**", "**broken brick pavers**", and the "**turbulence that comes with it for all small wheeled modes**", making it "**exceedingly uncomfortable for wheelchair and walker users**".
- **Uninviting and Stark Design:** The plaza was described as "**very bare and uninviting**", "**stark**", "**cold**", "**empty**", "**lacking cohesive design/flow**", and "**disjointed**".
- **Barriers and Lack of Flow:** Respondents noted "**barriers**" and "**steps**" that create "**poor circulation/flow**", making it a "**passageway**" rather than a destination. The "**berms**" and the plaza being "**sunken**" or "**cut off from Embarcadero**" were also concerns. The connection to the Ferry Building was described as having "**two different crossing lights on different cycles**" and a "**constrained entrance/exit**".
- **Underutilization and Lack of Purpose:** Many felt the space was "**underutilized**" and had "**no clear purpose**" or "**no reason to visit**".
- **Impact of Shadows and Wind:** Some noted that the "**Embarcadero towers create cold shadows**" making the plaza "**cold**" and "**shady**". It was also described as "**windswept**" and "**windy**".
- **Poor Integration:** The plaza felt "**separated from the rest of the area**" and lacked "**integration/flow with waterfront**".

5. Issues Related to Skateboarding and New Sports Facilities (Pickleball/Padel):

- **Concerns for Skateboarding:** Many lamented "**not enough skateboarding**", the "**removal of some of the most skatable elements**", the "**demolition**" of the "C-Block and the Gonz", and the "**loss of a significant piece of skateboarding history**". The plaza

was described as "**not accessible to skateboarding**" and "**not skate friendly**". Respondents pointed to "**skatestoppers**" and felt "**hated as a skater**". They wanted to "**include and acknowledge skateboarding**" in the new plan.

- **Negative Views on Pickleball/Padel Courts:** The "**pickle ball**" and "**padel courts**" were widely criticized as being "**in the way**", an "**eyesore**", "**ridiculously oriented**", "**disfiguring the plaza**", "**haphazardly placed**", "**taking up too much space**", "**a blight**", "**offensive**", "**ugly**", "**tacky**", "**acontextual**", "**not as important as skateboarding**", "**temporary looking**", "**restrictively ($100/month) expensive**", "**classist and out of touch**", looking like "**jail cells**" , and "**blocking off open space**". Some felt they "**serve no purpose**" and that "**no one knows that game**" .

Summary: Question 4 Written Responses (Other)

4. What new features or improvements would you like to see?

Response Count: 422

1. **Dedicated Skateboarding Areas and Recognition:**

Over 200 responses

A significant number of responses express a desire for dedicated spaces for skateboarding, ranging from skateboard parks and plazas to the preservation of existing skateable features. Many respondents emphasize acknowledging and celebrating the historical importance of the site to skateboarding culture. Some specifically mention recreating original skateboarding structures or features.

2. **Increased Greenery and Natural Elements:**

50-60 Responses

Many responses request more trees for shade, more grassy or open areas, native plant landscaping, and features to support pollinators and wildlife.

3. **General Park Amenities and Improvements:**

20-30 Responses

Several responses suggest the need for more basic park amenities such as more bathrooms, trash cans, outdoor lighting, benches and seating areas, and water fountains/stations. There are also requests for improved cleanliness and safety.

4. **Preservation and Minimal Change:**

~30 Responses

A notable number of responses advocate for keeping the plaza as it is, preserving the existing features including the Vaillancourt Fountain, and maintaining its historical significance. Some explicitly state there is no need for drastic change.

5. **Diverse Activities and Uses:**

60-70 Responses

Beyond skateboarding, there are suggestions for a variety of other activities and uses, including more play areas for kids, event areas, food vendors or

kiosks, and even specific recreational facilities like basketball courts, tennis, or pickleball courts (though some want them removed). There are also mentions of multi-use free space and making the space more accessible and welcoming to various communities.

Detailed Summary

1. Dedicated Skateboarding Areas and Recognition:

Specific Skatepark Types: Requests for specific types of skate facilities such as skateboard parks, skateboarding plazas, and mini ramps.

Preservation/Recreation of Original Skateboarding Features: Specific mentions of preserving the original "C-block", bringing it back to the way it was in 1992, recreating original EMB structures, and preserving portions of the park for skateboarders.

Skateable Elements and Obstacles: General requests for skateable features, including ledges, handrails, stairs, and inclined walls.

Acknowledgement and Celebration of Skateboarding History: Suggestions to engage designers to acknowledge skateboarding culture, interpretive signage discussing skateboard history, recognition of the park's role in skateboarding history, and incorporating skate history into the new plan.

Integration of Skateboarding: Desire for skateboarding to be considered a high priority, to be incorporated into the park, and for the space to be "skate friendly".

Specific Skateboarding Features Integrated with Art/Architecture: Ideas for skateable art installations.

2. Increased Greenery and Natural Elements:

Types of Greenery: Specific requests for shade trees, grassy/open areas, native plants, and overall planting/landscaping.

Features for Wildlife: Emphasis on creating pollinator habitat, attracting butterflies and birds, and creating ecology corridors.

Specific Natural Elements: Requests for a wetland with boardwalks and nature-focused space.

3. General Park Amenities and Improvements:

Basic Amenities: More bathrooms, trash cans, outdoor lighting, benches, seating areas, and water fountains/stations.

Cleanliness and Safety: Requests for more encampment sweeps and general cleanliness, greater police presence, security, and addressing the presence of homeless individuals and drug addicts.

Accessibility: Making the area more accessible for skateboarders and generally more accessible.

Design and Functionality: Requests for improved flow, better integration with Embarcadero, and a more attractive and better-suited plaza for multiple uses. Also suggestions for shade structures.

Noise Control: Please protect residents from noise from park amenities/events.

4. Preservation and Minimal Change:

Explicit Desire to Keep it the Same: Numerous responses explicitly state "Keep it the same", "None", "I like it how it is", "No improvements this is a piece of San Francisco history it is perfect!", "Leave it alone", "Nothing keep as is", "Keep as is!", "Leave it the way it is", "It’s perfect as is", "Leave this site as is and abandon any attempts to change this historical space", "Preserve the original park and sculpture", "Preserve the current park as it is a world renowned historical site", and "Leaving it as is".

Emphasis on Historical Significance: Focus on maintaining the historical significance of the plaza.

Preservation of Existing Features: Specific requests to preserve the Vaillancourt Fountain and other existing elements.

5. Diverse Activities and Uses:

Children's Play Areas: Requests for more play areas for kids, interactive kids park, and playground equipment for different ages.

Event Spaces: Desire for an event area for summer concerts/events, outdoor movies, and spaces for pop-ups.

Food and Beverage: Suggestions for food vendors/trucks/stalls, coffee kiosks, beer garden, and bars/social venues.

Sports and Recreation (Non-Skateboarding): Requests for basketball courts, tennis, pickleball courts (and conversely, requests to get rid of pickleball courts), bocce courts, roller skating rink, and public exercise equipment.

Community Spaces: Ideas for community gardens, multi-use free space, and spaces for all communities.

Art and Culture: Suggestions for large-scale art, temporary sculptures, historical exhibits, and showcasing the waterfront's rich history.

Other Unique Ideas: A public spa and pool, a mobility landscape, and specific design concepts like a 100’ long ship hull or exterior transit museum.

Summary: Question 15 Written Responses

15. "Would you like to share any additional thoughts or feedback?"

1. **Emphasis on Skateboarding History and the Need for its Inclusion:** This category reflects a strong desire to **honor and preserve the rich skateboarding history** of Embarcadero Plaza. Many respondents highlighted that **Embarcadero is a globally renowned and historically significant skateboarding location**, often referred to as a "**Mecca**" and the "**birthplace of modern street skateboarding**". They requested that any redesign **include skateable features**, **preserve existing elements** like the bricks and ledges, and **consult with the skateboarding community**. Some even suggested creating a dedicated "**skate plaza**" or incorporating skate elements into the fountain. The impact of EMB on global youth culture and the sport's journey to the Olympics was also mentioned. **Approximate Response Count: 450**
2. **Divergent Opinions on the Vaillancourt Fountain:** Responses regarding the fountain were highly varied. A significant portion expressed **negative views and called for its removal** due to it being "**ugly**", an "**eyesore**" , "**dated**" , "**not beautiful**" , a "**monstrosity**" , and a deterrent to better use of the space . Concerns about **homeless individuals bathing in it** were also raised. Conversely, many others advocated to **keep and maintain the fountain**, describing it as "**historic**", "**iconic**" , "**unique**", "**part of SF history/heritage**", and a "**piece of architectural art**" . Some suggested **modifying or incorporating it** into a new design. **Approximate Response Count: 380**
3. **Desire for Enhanced Park Features, Green Space, and Amenities:** Many responses expressed a need for **more green space, trees, and native plants**. Suggestions for **improved amenities** included **more seating** , **public restrooms**, **better lighting**, **trash cans**, **food and drink options** (though some disagreed with food trucks/stands in the plaza itself), **playgrounds**, and **dog-friendly areas** (though this was also a point of disagreement). Some desired **activation through events, music, and markets**, while others preferred a more passive open space . The importance of

safety and cleanliness was frequently mentioned. **Approximate Response Count: 520**

4. **Concerns about Design, Accessibility, and Purpose:** Many respondents commented on the existing park's design, noting that it feels **uninviting** , has "**too much concrete/paving**", **uneven surfaces/bricks**, and **conflicting heights/steps** making it difficult to navigate . There were calls for **improved ADA accessibility** . Some felt the plaza lacks a clear purpose and doesn't effectively connect with the surrounding areas. Suggestions included creating a more "**cohesive**" and "**functional**" space, drawing inspiration from other successful parks like **Tunnel Tops Park** and **Salesforce Park** . The impact of **shadows and wind** on the park's usability was also noted. **Approximate Response Count: 310**
5. **General Feedback on the Renovation Project and Process:** This category includes a range of comments about the project itself. Some expressed **excitement and support** for the renovation , while others were more cautious or expressed concerns about the process. Some emphasized the importance of **community input**, ensuring the park serves locals rather than just tourists or wealthy residents. There were also comments about **prioritizing needs** like addressing homelessness and safety, being mindful of **noise levels** for nearby residents , and using **high-quality, lasting materials** . Some suggested learning from other successful public spaces. **Approximate Response Count: 330**

Detailed Summary

1. Emphasis on Skateboarding History and the Need for its Inclusion:

- **Recognition of Historical Significance:** Respondents repeatedly emphasize that **Embarcadero Plaza is a globally renowned and historically significant skateboarding location**, often calling it "**one of the most important locations in all of skateboarding history**", a "**historic landmark for not only SF Skateboarding, but globally. It’s considered Mecca for skaters**", and "**the global birthplace of modern street skateboarding**". Some describe it as

a "**7th wonder of the skate world**". The plaza's role in the "**development of street skating**" and how "**Skateboarding never would have made it to the Olympics**" without it is highlighted. People from "**all over the planet**" and even from "**china or Russia**" know Embarcadero Plaza because of skateboarding.

- **Call for Preservation of Skateboarding Elements:** There are strong requests to "**Keep skateboarding at emb!**", "**Please keep the bricks**", and "**Don’t tear down the fountain or bricks**". Respondents want to "**leave as much of the original emb plaza as possible**" and "**preserve the historic skate structures. Four decades of skate history are at this plaza**". The "**concrete ledges that surround the fountain**" are specifically mentioned for preservation for skateboarders.
- **Demands for Active Inclusion in Redesign:** Many urge the project to "**include and acknowledge skateboarding in the new plan**", "**honor the rich skateboarding history of the EMB plaza**", and "**positively engage the skate community**". They want the redesign to "**integrate a portion of the plaza dedicated to skateboarding**" and to "**create a part of the space for skateboarding**". Some suggest "**adding more skate able things in honor of the skateboard history**" and including "**skateable obstacles**". There's even a suggestion to build a "**skateable bowl in the big fountain**", like a "**tony hawk pro skater map but in real life**".
- **Emphasis on Skateboarding as a Positive Activity:** Skateboarding is described as a "**green form of transportation**", a "**healthy activity**", "**diverse, inclusive, and active**", and something that "**makes cities more vibrant**" and "**keeps the city safe**". It's seen as a way to keep "**kids outside and active**".
- **Concerns about Displacement and Loss of History:** Respondents express fear of "**taking away**" this cherished space from skateboarders and causing a "**tragic lose for all of skateboarding**". They don't want to "**push us out**" and worry about "**destroying**" or "**ruining**" this historically significant area.
- **Calls for Collaboration with the Skateboarding Community:** There are specific requests to "**conduct targeted outreach to the skateboard community**" and "**consider working with your local skating community on this potential redesign**". Ted Barrows,

hosting a skating exhibition at the SF Public Library, is mentioned as a specific contact. The collaborative process at the Municipal service building in Philadelphia is cited as a positive example of integrating skateboarding into a plaza.

2. Divergent Opinions on the Vaillancourt Fountain:

- **Negative Perceptions and Calls for Removal:** Many respondents view the Vaillancourt Fountain negatively, describing it as an "**eyesore**", "**ugly**", a "**dated monstrosity**" , "**old and bulky**", "**hideous**" , and a "**terrible eyesore**". They feel it "**detracts from a better use of the space**" and want to "**get rid of that fountain!**" , "**tear out the fountain!**" , "**ditch the fountain**" , "**remove the fountain**" , and "**destroy the fountain**" . Concerns are raised about **homeless individuals bathing in it** and the city "**not having control**" over this issue.
- **Positive Perceptions and Calls for Preservation:** Conversely, many respondents want to "**Save the fountain**", "**Don’t tear down the fountain**", "**keep the fountain**", "**preserve the Vaillancourt Fountain**", "**keep and repair the Villancourt Fountain**" , and "**revive and maintain the Vaillancourt Fountain**" . They see it as "**historic**", "**iconic**", "**part of SF history**", "**architectural art piece**" , "**unique and interesting**" , "**an important piece of the City’s public art heritage**", and "**an amazing visual element to the area**" . Some have "**fond memories**" of it and feel it "**speaks to SF's eclectic history**" .
- **Suggestions for Modification and Integration:** Some suggest "**modifying**" the fountain or "**incorporating**" it into a new design. Ideas include filling it with "**dirt or other landscaping elements**" but keeping it as a sculpture, surrounding it with "**trees, greenery**", making it a "**climbing structure**" , and "**integrating**" it more into the redesign process. One suggestion is to "**eliminate the water element, a very deep cleaning/ power wash, eliminate the stairs etc., plant flowers etc. around it, celebrate that era of SF times! In other words, PRESERVED the history**". Another suggests it "**can be given a new lease on life and incorporated into a new art piece / water feature that connects the plaza with the waterfront and draws people in**".

3. Desire for Enhanced Park Features, Green Space, and Amenities:

- **More Green Space and Nature:** There are frequent calls for "**more green space**", "**less paved area**", "**more plants and trees**" , "**native plants**", "**rock gardens**" , and making the park "**green and natural looking**". Some emphasize the importance of supporting "**biodiversity**" and creating a "**wildlife corridor for butterflies and birds**" . The need to "**reduce the lawn**" because it's "**always too soggy to use**" is also mentioned.
- **Improved Seating and Gathering Spaces:** Respondents desire "**more seating**" and "**spaces to sit together**" , suggesting "**moveable cafe tables and chairs**" and "**benches**". The plaza should be a "**place where locals will come to see concerts, picnic, or the like**".
- **Essential Public Amenities:** The need for "**public restrooms**" and "**trash cans**" is highlighted. A desire for a "**coffee stand**" and "**affordable food/coffee**" is also expressed.
- **Family-Friendly Features:** Many want to make the space "**more kid friendly**" with a "**larger park like Mission Bay kids park**" and a "**bigger play area like tunnel tops**" .
- **Performance and Event Spaces:** Some envision the park as a place for "**live music**" , "**performing arts**" , "**concerts**", "**markets**", and "**community gatherings**". However, concerns about "**loud amplified sound**" disturbing nearby residents are also raised.
- **Other Desired Amenities:** Suggestions include a "**dog park**", "**bike paths**" , "**places to charge phones**" , and even a "**pool and hot tub**" .
- **Focus on Utility and Functionality:** There's a desire for "**more functional spaces**" and for the park to be "**inviting**" and "**usable**" for people eating or visiting the Ferry Building.

4. Concerns about Design, Accessibility, and Purpose:

- **Issues with Existing Design:** Respondents describe the current space as "**not designed to be welcoming**", "**unpleasant and unsafe**" , "**not inviting or very useful**", "**too hard wit too much paving**" , and having "**too much concrete**" . The numerous "**conflicting heights, walls and steps**" make it a "**mess to navigate**".

- **Lack of Cohesion and Connection:** The space "**doesn’t feel cohesive**" and needs to "**connect it to the other open/green spaces along embarcadero but have it be unique**" . The idea of the park "**connecting to**" and helping "**revitalizing market as well**" is mentioned.
- **Accessibility Concerns:** The uneven "**brick plaza**" is a concern, and there's a general desire for the park to be "**fully accessible**" .
- **Lack of Clear Purpose and Underutilization:** Some feel the open area "**added much at all to San Francisco**" and that the plaza is "**underutilized**". They question why there's a large "**expanse of brick**" that seems to sit "**ugly and unwelcoming 360 days of the year**" without constant events.
- **Impact of Environmental Factors:** Concerns about "**afternoon shadows from surrounding buildings**" overcasting the space and the plaza being too "**dark**" are noted. The need to consider "**sun + wind conditions**" in design decisions is also raised.
- **Desire for Simplicity and Quality:** There's a call to "**keep it simple and clean. Don't fill it with programs**" and to "**not overengineer the park**". Using "**quality materials that will last**" is emphasized .
- **Inspiration from Other Parks:** Successful parks like "**Tunnel Tops Park**", "**Salesforce Park**", "**Maggie Daley park in Chicago**" , "**Mission Creek Park on Channel St**", "**Levi's Plaza**", and NYC's "**west side waterfront in Manhattan**" are mentioned as potential inspirations.

5. General Feedback on the Renovation Project and Process:

- **Excitement and Support:** Many respondents express being "**very excited to see what comes of the new park!**" and "**fully support transforming this city asset into something wonderful and inspiring**". They see this as a "**great opportunity to transform two adjacent parks**" and make it a "**world class open area**".
- **Concerns about the Process and Priorities:** Some express concern that this might be a "**done deal**" with meetings being "**for performative purposes only**". There's worry about the project primarily serving "**property owners of embarcadero center**" and "**appeasing local residents of their buildings**" who are assumed to be "**very wealthy**". The use of "**public funds to support a project**

to appease 46,000 of our city's wealthiest residents is absolutely disgusting" to one respondent. The need to "**factor in community input**" and ensure the park serves "**San Francisco's residents**" and not just "**transient business people or tourists**" is emphasized.

- **Suggestions for Project Focus:** Some suggest focusing on "**safety and security**" and "**cleanliness**". Others believe the priority should be creating "**welcoming spaces**" for all, including the "**unhoused community members**". Concerns about "**privatization of public spaces**" and creating expensive dining venues that locals cannot afford are raised.
- **Feedback on Meetings and Outreach:** There was feedback that the "**room was too small and too warm**" for a meeting and that "**breakout groups with 20+ people do not work**". Questions were raised about how the survey was "**advertised to the community**" and the perceived "**white turnout**".
- **Concerns about Timeline and Cost:** The "**timeline for completion seems unrealistic**" to one respondent. Some suggest "**moving as quickly as possible on this project**", while others urge to "**move a little slower**" to understand what is really working. There are also comments about "**not overspend[ing] on planning**" and that "**money better spent elsewhere**" on more pressing city issues.
- **Importance of Preserving History (Beyond Skateboarding):** While skateboarding history is a major theme, some also mention the importance of honoring other histories, such as the "**Barbary Coast**", the "**gold rush boats**" , and acknowledging "**Native American recognition**". The need to "**retain our history**" and not rely on "**short term investors for our heritage**" is expressed.
- **Consideration for Neighbors:** Some nearby residents express concern about potential **noise** from events and request considering "**Dark Sky recommendations for neighbors and night flying wildlife**".